

## Beech - Birch - Maple Forest (MDF)



The Beech - Birch - Maple Forest map class (MDF) is a deciduous forest with <25% relative canopy cover of conifers. The dominant species are beech, sugar maple, and yellow birch. The canopy cover is closed once the leaves have fully grown.

MDF has a light pink, fluffy signature with a soft texture. The signature is created primarily by the beech trees, which were just leafing out when the aerial photos were taken. This characteristic was used as the primary cue for recognizing MDF from other deciduous forest types. MDF grades into SFM when conifers reach 25% relative cover. It also grades into ABF where birch and aspen dominate rather than beech.

MDF was mapped typically at low to mid elevations and slopes throughout the park.

The MDF map class represents one NVCS association: [Northern Hardwood Forest](#).

Polygons: 54, Hectares: 382, Average size (h): 7

### **Accuracy Assessment Results**

**Producers' accuracy: 78%** (Confidence interval 62% - 95%)

**Users' accuracy: 69%** (Confidence interval 52% - 86%)

Errors in **producers' accuracy** were associated with map class Spruce - Fir Forest (conifer phase, SF, 2 errors), White Pine - Hardwood Forest (WPM, 1 error), and Mixed Conifer - Deciduous Woodland (MW, 2 errors). Errors in **users' accuracy** were associated with map class Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex (forest phase, ABF, 7 errors) and Spruce - Fir Forest (mixed phase, SFM, 1 error).

### **Special Notes:**

*Spring photography often created difficulties in confidently separating ABF from MDF. Stands assessed as ABF and incorrectly mapped as MDF were stands where birch co-dominated. Birch, which is often a component in both map classes, resembles beech in color but has less of beech's fluffy character.*